



NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20570

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COMPANY PRESIDENT SENTENCED TO 18 MONTHS IMPRISONMENT FOR CONTEMPT OF NLRB ORDER

The General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board, Fred Feinstein, today announced the sentencing of Thomas R. Hochschild, president of Crystal Window Cleaning Company, Inc. in Cleveland, Ohio, to 18 months of imprisonment for felonious contempt of court in a criminal trial brought by a collaborative effort between the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Ohio and the NLRB Contempt Litigation Branch.

The Honorable Paul R. Matia, U.S. District Court Judge for the Northern District of Ohio, imposed the sentence after a jury found Hochschild guilty of willfully disobeying several orders of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, including a September 23, 1991 judgment enforcing a November 6, 1990 order of the National Labor Relations Board, an April 28, 1993 civil contempt adjudication, and a July 8, 1993 purgation order. It is the first time that a company, union, or their representatives has been tried before a jury for felonious contempt of a court judgment enforcing a decision of the NLRB.

The National Labor Relations Board had previously found that Crystal Window violated the National Labor Relations Act by discharging employees and failing to honor a collective-bargaining agreement with Service, Hospital, Nursing Home and Public Employees Local 47, Service Employees. On September 23, 1991, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

enforced the Board's finding and ordered Crystal Window to offer reinstatement to the discriminatees, to pay them backpay, and to comply with the company's contract with the union. On April 28, 1993, at the Board's request, the Sixth Circuit held Hochschild and Crystal Window in civil contempt for failing to comply with the court's September 1991 judgment. After Hochschild and Crystal Window failed to comply with the court's July 8, 1993 order directing them to purge their contempt, a jury convicted Hochschild of felony contempt based on his failure as the president and officer of the company to cause Crystal Window to comply with the court's orders.

NLRB General Counsel Fred Feinstein said: "This case demonstrates the NLRB's diligence and effectiveness in carrying out its responsibilities and the severe consequences that can follow from noncompliance with Board orders. I would like to commend for their work on the case Gary Shinnars, NLRB Assistant General Counsel for Contempt Litigation, and Contempt Branch Attorney Joan A. Sullivan, who were appointed as Special Assistant U.S. Attorneys and worked closely with Assistant U.S. Attorney Christian H. Stickan, Deputy Chief of the Economic Crimes Unit "

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